



Minutes for 18 June 2025 / 6:00 PM / 62 Hyde Blvd

Attendees: Andrea Simmons; Christine Fitzpatrick; Martha and Mike Iacolucci; Terri Stile; Stan Lockwood; Andy Manion; Lori Acee

Pat Burnham; Mandy Ryder; Danielle Thomson; Jim Carter.

May's minutes were approved (Stan, Pat)

Fundraising ideas were discussed: Sample Tour map>

Tentative Dates for the Tour of "Libraries Past" was set for Friday, Sept. 12th or Saturday, Sept. 13th. So far there appears to be no conflicts on the village calendar. Andrea has a list of all locations, and we will scout them out in July for planning purposes. Also discussed is the creation of a bit of history (poster?) for each location with a representative at each spot. Participants will get a sticker for each location they visit. If the sticker sheet is full (they've visited every location), their name will be entered for a gift basket raffle drawing to take place at the last stop.

Christine has contacted Jess at Sage Wines to inquire about the cost for a wine tasting and has information about the Friday date and cost to share at the next meeting. We also discussed a merchandise table set up with FOL bags and whatnot. Mike and Martha's mom will donate some beautiful hand-embroidered bookmarks for us to sell for this event (*we all want one!*). Donations for the raffle basket are encouraged. Price PP will be forthcoming.

Lori reports that there has been a surprising number of hits on the website's Library Stories video created by Skidmore students, and Terri Styles suggested gathering old photos and stories of various library locations and we could use the library website to feature some, along w/ social media. We would need to get a release from participants.

Lori has some great info from a similar Saratoga event from which we can glean good ideas and suggested a map of locations w/ a small history blurb for each on a treasure map of sorts that attendees pick up at the start, along w/ some "yard signs" w/ location spots.

Another fundraising event for BOOK LOVERS was proposed for October, on a Saturday TBD (not Columbus Day). Located in Troy, the **Renascent Bookbindery** is a fascinating museum-like collection of antique book-making and binding equipment. All tours are guided by founder and bookbinder Tim James. The tour will take around ninety minutes and includes sewing and trimming a book in 15th-century style, the application of gold to a leather book cover, making printing type by hand, and participating in printing on an 1820s style iron hand press. There's a book collection on the second level that we could peruse. Check it out at <https://www.renascentbookbindery.com/>

The tour has a \$20 donation PP, but some of this is rebated to *not-for-profits*. Danielle will nail down the facts. We can carpool, or Andrea has suggested renting a bus if we get a big response and adding a lunch option. The Bindery is in the Little Italy district of Troy. We will explore overall cost pp.

Our grant writers have reported that we will be applying for another matching funds grant for Phase 1B.

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Library Building and Reopening Updates

There are some complications impacting timing and scheduling of various work projects. Paul Mays will write up and manage RFPs for bid packages. Our hopes are to accomplish some projects despite that many contractors are committed to school projects for the summer. However, even as we discussed the outstanding issues, there are new developments. The air quality tests came back *All Good* and recent emails between our BOT, Andrea & Mayor Rossi are pushing for a library reopening date as soon as July 4th.

SALS has been storing many books for us and they will soon be delivered back to us. There will be a Call for Volunteers as we reshelve them in advance of the reopening. We will keep you posted.

Meanwhile, a huge thank-you to Andrea and loyal staff members who have kept things going in every way possible, developing plans for outside programming and staying in touch with our people!

UPDATE: The library should re-open on July 17th,

Next Meeting Thursday, July 17th, 6:00 PM – If all goes well, the library will be open.

Submitted by:

Danielle Thomson VP FOBSPL